

**HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE DISTRICT
MEETING
January 14, 2015**

Present

Chuck Rage, Chairman & Commissioner
Robert Ladd, Commissioner
Stephen LaBranche, Treasurer

Chairman Rage called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Presentation – Fire Department

Chairman Rage welcomed Jamie Ayotte, Acting Fire Chief. Chief Ayotte discussed the department's need for a new pumper truck. He said there is a warrant article that addresses this. The present engine is over 27 years old. The new engine will be up to date and allow them to have all the tools they need. The firefighters have a lot of equipment to carry and the present engine is entirely too small.

Chairman Rage said the Commissioners will give Chief Ayotte all the support they can towards obtaining this engine.

Chief Ayotte then discussed paramedic response. He said the paramedic rides in the engine to the scene and is then met by the ambulance. Chief Ayotte said this is a very efficient way to do this. When the ambulance arrives, care has already been given. Their response time is under 60 seconds.

Chief Ayotte said they are working on getting lights set up so they can stop traffic and enter onto Ashworth Avenue. This is only for an emergency response situation.

Chief Ayotte was asked if he had a need for more staffing. He said it would be nice, but is not critical at this time. If calls increase and population grows that will become an issue.

Richard Reniere, 29 Highland Ave., asked why the pumper truck accompanies the ambulance. Chief Ayotte said the truck is a "rolling office" and carries all the needed equipment.

Commissioner Ladd asked about resources when a water rescue is done. Chief Ayotte explained the mechanics of such a rescue.

Chief Ayotte discussed the need for a Fire Inspector position. Commissioner Ladd asked if that position would not happen if there is a default budget. Chief Ayotte said that is correct.

Commissioner Rage thanked Chief Ayotte for his presentation.

Old Business

Commissioner Ladd said he, David Wood and Jay Diener attended a Board of Selectmen meeting in December. At that meeting the Board of Selectmen agreed that the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager would be designated as the coordinators for the flood insurance issue. Commissioner Ladd said the national flood insurance program is absolutely critical. There is a warrant article for Zoning that will get the Town involved in this. If the warrant article fails, FEMA will no longer allow insurance in the Town. There will be no federal money for anything. This article must be passed for the Town to stay in this program. The Town must get into the Community Rating System. The Selectmen have agreed to send notice to all residents in the flood plan regarding the insurance issue.

Chairman Rage noted that this is not just a beach issue. It affects 60-70% of the Town. Commissioner Ladd said this could affect real estate values. It is absolutely essential that the warrant article be passed.

New Business

Chairman Rage said there is a piece of property that has been offered to the Village District to purchase. The District is interested because parking is at a premium at the beach. If this can be done, a bond could be put forward. A special meeting will be necessary to discuss the purchase of this property. This will provide parking and is not to make a lot of money. It is to help the community. This will pay for itself and perhaps make a little money.

Commissioner Ladd said the Town Planner and Chairman of the Conservation Commission will be at the February meeting. The Planning Board must take the lead in the Community Rating System.

Kathy Silva asked if there will be a budget session that is open to the public. Chairman Rage said a session will be held on January 21st at 12:30 p.m. at the fire station. There will be a snow date of January 22nd.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Ladd, seconded by Chairman Rage, to approve the Minutes of December 10, 2014.

Vote: 2 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Kathy Silva, Blue Ocean Discovery Center, said the New Years Eve Celebration was very successful. They served 469 people that evening. Ms. Silva said they are looking forward to

next season and are busy planning their programs. They will be having an Earth Week Celebration in April.

Chairman Rage said he heard the fireworks on New Years Eve were amazing.

John Kane, Marketing Director, said he wanted to thank Blue Ocean for their part in making New Years Eve a success. He also thanked the State for opening the pavilion. The State did a great job pulling everything together. The fireworks were fabulous. He also thanked Police Chief Sawyer and Acting Fire Chief Ayotte for all their help.

Closing Comments

Commissioner Ladd said Selectman Rick Griffin was very complimentary about the New Years Eve Celebration and suggested it could grow into something more.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary